

# WELWYN GARDEN CITY



**ST. BONAVENTURE**



**OUR LADY,  
QUEEN OF APOSTLES**



**HOLY FAMILY**

*Parish Priest: Fr. Norbert Fernandes Assistant Priest: Fr. Tom Montgomery  
Parish Secretary: Kathryn Hubbard*

## *Thirty-third Sunday of the Year 18th November page 157 of the Mass Book*

‘The end is nigh!’ seems to be the gist of today’s Gospel reading from St. Mark. It will be our last passage from St. Mark for some time! Jesus speaks about a time of distress with amazing signs in the heavens. He looks ahead to when the Son of Man will be seen coming on the clouds of heaven to gather the chosen. He takes an image from nature of the buds on a fig tree opening up to reveal that summer is on the way. He concludes with scary words indicating that no-one knows the time or the day except for the Father. Jesus is wanting to prepare his hearers for his imminent Death (and Resurrection). He promises he will return. This cannot be calculated in a human way; preparation is absolutely necessary.

In every age human beings have looked at the forces of nature and felt their destruction. In so many places on our earth, the havoc and sheer suffering of war lead people to think that the end of the world is so close. Some have made pots of money writing predictions and offering books with all the signs. The vulnerable have fallen for the scare-mongering of the soothsayers. This is where our trust in Jesus is paramount. Just as he was willing to go to the Cross carrying our burdens, just as he stepped into the unknown as he breathed his last, so he calls on us to be with him, to put our faith in him and to let his hope flood our minds and hearts.

We are halfway through the month of November; one more Sunday (Christ the King) and then it’ll be Advent! Let each day be lived in the hope of heaven. Let our words speak of Christ and share the message of the Good News of Jesus’ presence in our midst. May our actions radiate divine love. Life has to carry on and yet real life founded on trust in God will never allow the powers of darkness to snatch away the faith we have.

God bless you. *Fr. Norbert*

**ANNA (MAUREEN) JOHNSON RIP** Maureen's Funeral Service will be at Our Lady's on Wednesday 28th November at 1pm.

**FRANK SCHOFIELD RIP** Frank's Funeral Mass will be at Our Lady's on Friday 30th November at 2pm. His body will be received into the church on the Thursday at 3.30pm.

**REMEMBRANCE DAY** Our thanks to all who helped create such a spirit of prayer and reflection at every Mass in our three churches last Sunday.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL** will meet this Tuesday (20th) at 7.45pm in Our Lady's sacristy. The Liverpool 'Adoremus Group' will join them too. If anyone in the parishes has an item to be brought up, please let Fr. Norbert know.

**SIGNED MASS** Please note that 6pm Mass on Saturday 24th November will be a signed Mass so please let any deaf or hard of hearing parishioners, family or friends know.

**AVIGNON REUNION** will take place in Our Lady's sacristy after 6pm Mass on Saturday 24th November. It will take the form of a bring and share.

**RCIA** Next session Monday 19th November at 7.30pm in Our Lady's sacristy.

**CONFIRMATION** The course continues at Holy Family Church today (18th) with the session from 7.15pm until 8.45pm.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** Enrolment for Our Lady's Church will be on Tuesday 27th November at 7.45pm in Our Lady's Church (children do not have to attend); the sessions are on a Sunday morning starting in the new year. Parents at Our Lady's will be asked to purchase the First Confession Book at the meeting - price £5. Enrolment for Holy Family Church will be on Sunday 2nd December after 9.30 Mass. Holy Family's sessions begin in the new year and are usually after school midweek.

**MASS FOR DECEASED DEANERY CLERGY** The annual Mass will this year be at St. Joseph's, Bedwell Crescent, Stevenage SG1 1NJ on Tuesday 27th November at 11am. Bishop Paul McAleenan will be the Celebrant. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**NEED A CLEANER?** Then phone Elizabeth Anderson on 01707 883770 or 07980 887231 - regular cleans, one off, ironing etc.

**FRENCH TEACHER** Do you need a native French teacher? GCSE-AS/2-conversational. Please contact Sarah on 07986 700989

**OUR LADY'S AND HOLY FAMILY REPOSITORIES** Christmas stock now in, large selection of cards and gifts. Open before and after most Masses.

**ST. BONAVENTURE'S CHILDREN'S TUESDAY GROUP** Meets every Tuesday in term time from 3.45pm. All welcome.

**NATIVITY PLAY AT ST. BONAVENTURE'S** Once again as part of our Carol Service at St. Bonaventure's on 16th December, there will be a Nativity Play. All children/young people are invited to take part (not just St. Bonaventure's). Our first rehearsal is on Sunday 2nd December from 3.30pm - 4.30pm.

**\*\*OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES\*\*** Boxes are being collected this Monday morning so they must be at St. Bonaventure's by 9am on Monday at the very latest. Final total will be announced in next week's newsletter.

**NOVEMBER DEAD LIST** There are sheets at the back of each church for you to write down the names of loved ones who have died. These will be near the altar during the month of November and will be remembered at Mass. *There is no need to give any money.*

**BLESSING OF GRAVES** Today (18th) at 2pm at Hatfield Lawn Cemetery, Southway. Next Sunday (25th) 2pm at Welwyn New Cemetery.

**CAROLS** The Christian Churches will be singing carols in the Howard Centre (outside H&M) on Saturday 1st December 3 - 4pm. Come and lend your voice!

**SPECIAL NEEDS MASS** Our next celebration will be at Our Lady's on Saturday 8th December with Mass at 6pm and a gathering in the sacristy afterwards. All welcome.

**CAFOD REFLECTION DAYS** Countering Consumerism – Lessons from Gaudete Et Exsultate. Have you ever felt a conflict between putting your faith into practice and the demands of leading a busy, modern life? Have you ever thought about what it would mean to live more simply and meditatively: to live in ways which approach closer to holiness? Pope Francis offers some ideas. Join CAFOD for a day of reflection on either Saturday 24th Nov in Lambeth or Saturday 1st Dec in Oakwood, North London. For further details contact [Westminster@cafod.org.uk](mailto:Westminster@cafod.org.uk) or 0208-449-6970 or register @<https://cafod.org.uk/News/Events/Westminster-Retreat>

**DATES** Day Pilgrimage with the Deaf to Walsingham Saturday 18th May. Trip to Canterbury Cathedral with Christian Churches of WGC Saturday 15th June 2019. Service in the Crypt, Guided Tours, picnic lunch, free (shopping!) time and Evensong in Cathedral. Keep the dates free!

**HOLY FAMILY CAFOD** group will be holding an Advent Fayre on 25th November after the 9.30am Mass. We will have a fancy goods table with decorative filled teapots Christmas goodies, flavoured oils, greetings cards and a cake sale table. If anyone wants to donate any unwanted gifts previously received they will be very welcome. The Christmas raffle will begin on 28th November and be drawn on Sunday 23rd Dec after the 9.30am Mass.

**CHRISTMAS A CAPPELLA SINGING FREE TASTER SESSIONS** Welwyn Harmony Ladies Chorus invites you to come and have fun singing Christmas songs a cappella in four-part harmony. Tuesday 20th and 27th November and 11th December from 7.30pm to 9.30pm at the Vineyard Barn, Digswell Rise, Welwyn Garden City, AL8 7PU. All ladies welcome! Contact: [info@welwynharmony.co.uk](mailto:info@welwynharmony.co.uk) for more details.

**A REMINDER** that items for inclusion in the newsletter need to be in by Thursday evenings at the latest. Thank you.

**Fr. Norbert 01707 323234**  
**welwyngdncityeast@rcdow.org.uk**  
Our Lady's Church  
141 Woodhall Lane AL7 3TP

**Kathryn Hubbard 01707 322579**  
**parishsec@stbonaventure.org.uk**  
St. Bonaventure's Church  
81 Parkway AL8 6J

**Fr. Tom 01707 327434**  
**welwyngdncitydigs@rcdow.org.uk**  
Holy Family Church  
194 Knightsfield AL8 7RQ

### CONFESSIONS

Holy Family: Thursday **10am**  
St. Bonaventure: Saturday **10.30am -11am**  
Our Lady's: Saturday **5pm -5.30pm.**

**Website for our 3 parishes**  
**www.wgc-catholics.org.uk**

**ST ALBANS** Every Friday at St. Albans Abbey-Cathedral a Catholic Mass is celebrated at 12 noon. You are all welcome.

### DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND MASS BUT CANNOT MANAGE THE JOURNEY?

We have experienced volunteer drivers willing to provide door to door transport. Please telephone Kay on 01707 335633 or Desi on 01707 371399

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION** Any couples wishing to get married in Welwyn Garden City or elsewhere should speak to Fr. Norbert so that the necessary preparations can be made. The Marriage Preparation Day will be on Saturday 23rd March 2019.

**SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS TEA PARTY** – Wednesday 5th December @ 12.30pm. Join us at Nicholas Breakspear Catholic School for an afternoon of Festive Treats & Fun. To RSVP (or for more information) please contact Nicola Butler – 01727 860 079 or email [butlern@nbs.herts.sch.uk](mailto:butlern@nbs.herts.sch.uk)

### MASS TIMES

19 Monday	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady's	feria
20 Tuesday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
21 Wednesday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	Presentation of Blessed Virgin
22 Thursday	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family	St. Cecilia
23 Friday	9.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	feria
	7pm	Mass	Our Lady's	
24 Saturday	10am	Mass	St. Bonaventure	St. Andrew Dung-Lac and companions

### Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

24 Saturday	6pm	Mass	Our Lady's
25 Sunday	8am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	9.30am	Mass	Holy Family
	10.30am	Mass	St. Bonaventure
	11.30am	Mass	Our Lady's
	6pm	Mass	Holy Family



**CHAPLAIN TO THE Q.E.II AND LISTER HOSPITALS:** If you are going into hospital and need a Catholic Chaplain contact **Chaplaincy Office Tel: 01438 285138 (24/7) Urgent need: 01438 314 333 via text message: 07876 526935 email: [chaplaincy.enh-tr@nhs.net](mailto:chaplaincy.enh-tr@nhs.net)**